

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No: To Be Assigned

Applicants: Robert Joseph Panek, Jr., John C. Japuntich, and James A. Arendt

Filed: Herewith

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR UNWINDING A NEEDLE PORTION

TC/A.U.: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

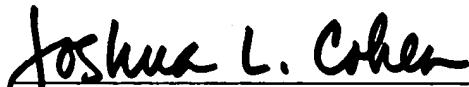
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Joshua L. Cohen, Reg. No. 38,040  
Christopher M. Spletzer, Reg. No. 52,240  
Attorneys for Applicants

JLC/CMS/lcf

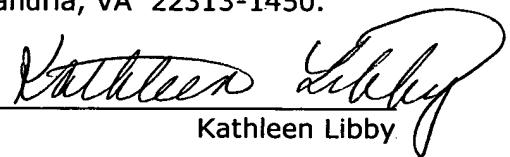
Enclosures: PTO Form 1449

Dated: November 25, 2003

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I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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Kathleen Libby

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

SHEET 1 of 2

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Robert Joseph Panek, Jr
Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned

Attorney Docket No. TCO1-101US2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-4,466,538	08/1984	Gianni, Richard F.	
		US-4,494,652	01/1985	Nelson, et al.	
		US-4,801,013	01/1989	Bruno, John	
		US-4,986,811	01/1991	Thead, et al.	
		US-4,989,307	02/1991	Sharpe, et al.	
		US-5,069,667	12/1991	Freundlich, et al.	
		US-5,188,598	02/1993	Thead, et al.	
		US-5,322,164	06/1994	Richardson, et al.	
		US-5,409,113	04/1995	Richardson, et al.	
		US-5,573,113	11/1996	Shillington, et al.	
		US-6,019,218	02/2000	Racicot, et al.	
		US-6,158,314	12/2000	Thead, et al.	
		US-4,576,281	03/1986	Kirksey, Patricia E.	
		US-4,488,643	12/1984	Pepper, Kenneth V.	
		US-5,092,462	03/1992	Sagstetter, et al.	
		US-6,474,472	11/2002	Shaw, Thomas J.	
		US-6,253,916	07/2001	Bickel, Christopher R.	
		US-6,062,001	05/2000	Kunik, Burton J.	
		US-6,027,392	02/2000	Ruhlman, Maegan	
		US-5,857,569	01/1999	Hoftman, et al.	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
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<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).<sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.<sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).<sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.<sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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SHEET 2 of 2	Attorney Docket No. TCO1-101US2	

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